(b) if so, when the above narrow gauge line of Orissa is expected to be converted into Broad gauge; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A survey was carried out for conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposhi N.G. line to B.G. and its extension to Dalbhumgarh, in 1979. The project was found to be unremunerative and, therefore, could not be taken up.

On consideration of development of backward and tribal areas, it has been decided that the survey already carried out for its conversion and its extension would be updated so that the matter could be reviewed.

Construction of a Platform at Barbil Railway Station, Orissa

493. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to construct a platform at Barbil Railway station in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for that purpose; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the construction work and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Extension of the existing 72 Metres long goods platform at Barbil Railway Station by another 30 Metres is a sanctioned work at a cost of Rs. 83,820.00. The work will be started soon after completion of certain formalities and the same is likely to be completed in 1990. The amount allocated for this work during 1989-90 is Rs. 20,000.00.

Production and Prices of Cotton Crop in the Country

494. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the expected production of cotton crop for the year 1989-90;

(b) what are the present prices of various varieties of cotton as also their prices last year;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers have refused to sell their cotton due to low prices; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to control the situation?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The estimates of cotton production during 1989-90 have not yet become due from the States. However, according to the present assessment, the production of cotton during 1989-90 is provisionally expected to be about 88 lakh bales.

(b) The requisite information in respect of important Centres/Varieties of cotton is as follows:—

State/Centre	Variety	Wholesale Prices of raw cotton	
		Lastest	Corresponding a year ago
1. Punjab	F-414	740	720
Malout		(1.12.89)	(25.11.88) •
2. Tamil Nadu	MCU-5-1	975	1080
Tirupur		(15.12.89)	(16.12.88)
3. Gujarat	Shankar-4	891	750
Broach		(1.12.89)	(2.12.88)
4. Andhra Pradesh	Hybrid-4	906	878
Adoni		(27.10.89)	(28.10.88)